

--18.(Amended) A carpeted floor mat comprising

a non-woven carpet pile substrate, said substrate a) comprising polyester fibers, b) exhibiting a heat shrinkage rate of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%, and c) weighing between 3.5 and 4.5 ounces per square yard; wherein a pile material is tufted through said substrate to form a pile surface on one side of said substrate; and

a vulcanized expanded foam rubber backing sheet, said backing sheet exhibiting a heat shrinkage rate of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%; wherein said backing sheet is integrated to the non-tufted side of the carpet pile substrate; and, optionally, comprising solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least one of the borders of said backing sheet;

wherein said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine.

23.(Amended) A carpeted floor mat comprising

a non-woven carpet pile substrate, said substrate a) comprising polyester fibers, b) exhibiting a heat shrinkage rate of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%, and c) weighing between 3.5 and 4.5 ounces per square yard; wherein a pile material is tufted through said substrate to form a pile surface on one side of said substrate; and

a vulcanized expanded foam rubber backing sheet, said backing sheet possessing a modulus strength of greater than about 1,000 pounds per square inch; wherein said backing sheet is integrated to the non-tufted side of the carpet pile substrate; and, optionally, comprising solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least one of the borders of said backing